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Agenda item 71

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Mohamed Ali Saleh **Alnajar** (Yemen)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty" was included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 58 /71 of 8 December 2003.

2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2004, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 1st meeting, on 30 September 2004, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely items 57 to 72, which was held at the 2nd to 9th meetings, on 4, 5, 7, 8 and 11 to 14 October (see A/C.1/59/PV.2-9). Thematic discussions on the items were held and draft resolutions introduced and considered at the 10th to 16th meetings, from 18 to 22 and on 25 October (see A/C.1/59/PV.10-16). Action on all draft resolutions was taken at the 17th to 23rd meetings, from 26 to 28 October and on 1 and 3 to 5 November (see A/C.1/59/PV.17-23).

4. There were no documents submitted for the consideration by the Committee under this item.

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.25 and Rev.1

5. At the 8th meeting, on 13 October, the representative of New Zealand, on behalf of Australia, Mexico and New Zealand, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty" (A/C.1/59/L.25). Subsequently, Andorra, Austria, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Greece, Kazakhstan, Liberia, Mongolia, Panama, Papua New Guinea, the

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Russian Federation, Slovenia, Sierra Leone, Suriname, Thailand, Ukraine, Uruguay and Venezuela joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At the 11th meeting, on 19 October, the representative of New Zealand, on behalf of Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, China, the Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Nauru, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela and Zambia, introduced a revised draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty" (A/C.1/59/L.25/Rev.1). Subsequently, Canada, France, Malaysia, Peru, San Marino and Senegal joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution, which contained the following change:

> In the first and second lines of operative paragraph 8, the words "in consultation with the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization," were added after the word "Secretary-General".

7. At its 20th meeting, on 1 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.25/Rev.1 by a recorded vote of 147 to 1, with 4 abstentions (see para. 8). The voting was as follows:*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, the Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland,

* Subsequently, the delegations of Kuwait and Jordan stated that, had they been present, they would have voted in favour of the draft resolution.

Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia.

Against:

United States of America.

Abstaining:

Colombia, India, Mauritius, Syrian Arab Republic.

III. Recommendation of the First Committee

8. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

The General Assembly,

Reiterating that the cessation of nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions constitutes an effective nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation measure,

Recalling that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, adopted by its resolution 50/245 of 10 September 1996, was opened for signature on 24 September 1996,

Stressing that a universal and effectively verifiable Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty constitutes a fundamental instrument in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation,

Encouraged by the signing of the Treaty by one hundred and seventy-three States, including forty-one of the forty-four needed for its entry into force, and welcoming the ratification of one hundred and nineteen States, including thirty-three of the forty-four needed for its entry into force, among which there are three nuclear-weapon States,

Recalling its resolution 58/71 of 8 December 2003,

Welcoming the Joint Ministerial Statement reaffirming support for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, signed in New York on 23 September 2004,

1. *Stresses* the importance and urgency of signature and ratification, without delay and without conditions, to achieve the earliest entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty;

2. *Welcomes* the contributions by the States signatories to the work of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, in particular its efforts to ensure that the Treaty's verification regime will be capable of meeting the verification requirements of the Treaty upon its entry into force, in accordance with article IV of the Treaty;

3. *Underlines* the need to maintain momentum towards completion of the verification regime;

4. *Calls upon* all States to maintain their moratoriums on nuclear-weapons test explosions or any other nuclear explosions and to refrain from acts that would defeat the object and purpose of the Treaty;

5. *Also calls upon* all States that have not yet signed the Treaty to sign and ratify it as soon as possible;

6. *Further calls upon* all States that have signed but not yet ratified the Treaty, in particular those whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, to

accelerate their ratification processes with a view to their earliest successful conclusion;

7. *Urges* all States to remain seized of the issue at the highest political level;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, to prepare a report on the efforts of States that have ratified the Treaty towards its universalization and possibilities for providing assistance on ratification procedures to States that so request it, and to submit such a report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty".